(d) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The latest status report on financial aspect of DTC for the year 1995-96 is given hereunder:—

	(Rs. in crs.)
1. Total Income	140.67
2. Working Exp.	234.87
3. Working loss (1-2)	94.20
4. Depreciation & Interest on Govt. loan	294.75
5. Prior Period adj. (+)	3.34
6. Total Expenditure (2+4+5)	532.96
7. Net Loss (6−1)	392.29

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The decision is yet to be taken.

Atrocities on Harijans and Backward Classes in Uttar Pradesh

1702. SHRI RAJ BABBAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of atrocities committed on Harijans and Backward Classes in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the action Government have taken thereon; and

(c) the number of persons arrested/prosecuted and the nature of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sinking of Water-Level

1703. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of States where water-level is sinking every year and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the water-level in Punjab is also going down; if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the water-level in these States especially in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) As per long term observations, decline in the levels of ground water of more than 4 metres has been observed in certain pockets in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The decline in the ground water level in some parts of the country is attributable to several natural and human factors like heavy withdrawals, exceeding replenishment, excessive run off and variation in rainfall etc.

(b) In Punjab, decline of 4 to 5 metres in the levels of ground water has been observed in parts of districts of Amritsar, Firozpur, Jallandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala, Roper and Sangrur.

(c) Certain measures like artificial recharge of ground water through construction of check dams, percolation tanks as well as changes in cropping pattern are in vouge in various States including Punjab to improve ground water level.

Vacation of Kangla Fort, Imphal by Assam Rifles

1704. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 611 given in Rajya Sabha on 6th March, 1996 and state:

(a) whether a portion of the Assam Rifles Battalion has been moved out of the Kangla Fort by March 31, 1996 as has been assured by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for shifting of the remaining portion at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Assam Rifles have already vacated an area of approximately 37 acres, including 60 buildings of Kangla Fort premises. Some of the Assam Rifles personnel with families have also shifted to temporary alternate accommodation. The State Government has also been conveyed that the remaining portion of the Unit would be shifted as soon as alternate accommodation with necessary infrastructure at an alternate site becomes ready for occupation.

Inter-State Boundary Disputes

1705. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Inter-States boundary disputes are pending for settlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Governments of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab and Haryana have sought the Central Government's intervention in helping to settle their boundary disputes. While the Maharashtra-Karnataka-Kerala border disputes relate to conflicting territorial claims over certain border villages, the Punjab-Haryana border dispute relates to transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and some Hindi-speaking areas from Punjab to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh.

It is essentially for the State Governments themselves to sort out the disputes either bilaterally or through various forms. The Central Government's stand has been that these disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and towards this end the Central Government would extent all possible assistance to the States concerned.

Wireless Loop Technology for Cellular Telephones

1706. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has completed major critical tests in Wireless Loop Technology as compared to the existing "TDMA" and "GSM" technologies being used in the cellular phones;

(b) if so, the details theeof; name of the company which has developed the technology and whether the Department would be able to meet the "Telephone-on-demand scheme" after modernising the net work in the country; and

(c) the present cost of MINL single connection and the likely cost under Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) connection and whether technicians trained by the concerned foreign company for this purpose are available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Sir, Department of Telecommunications is conducting presently field trial of Code Division Multiple Access Wireless local loop technology for 1000 subscribers capacity system supplied by M/s. Qualcomm, USA in Delhi. Modernising and expanding the network in the country would help to meet the telephone on demand subject to the availability of resources.

(c) The present cost of MTNL single connection varies from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000. Likely cost under Code Division Multiple Access connection is difficult to assess at this stage without large scale deployment. Trained engineers are available in the country.